

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

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Application Number	09/180,432
Filing Date	February 12, 1999
First Named Inventor	MACHINO, et al.
Group Art Unit	1771
Name of Examiner	Ula Corinna Ruddock
Attorney Docket No.	981361

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat.

a. ☐ Previously submitted

- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____

- b. ☒ **Enclosed**
- i. ☒ **Amendment Accompanying RCE/Reply**
- ii. ☐ **Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)**
- iii. ☐ **Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)**
- iv. ☒ **Other Amendment Transmittal.**

a. ☐ Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of THREE months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340

- i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other _____

- b. ☒ Please apply the fee of \$770.00 submitted with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on February 27, 2004. A check in the amount of \$258.00 is enclosed to cover three independent claims presented in the Amendment Accompanying RCE.

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**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No.

981361

SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name **Susanne M. Hopkins**

Registration No. **33,247 (atty/agent)**

Signature

Date **July 1, 2004**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name

Signature